

World Bank Assistance for Training of IT Engineers

2936. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approached the World Bank for part financing of \$ 1 billion project 'Operation Knowledge' to triple to number of engineers passing out from the Indian colleges by 2005;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has sought partial financial support from the World Bank which would be used for generating trained manpower to fulfil the burgeoning national and international demands;

(c) if so, to what extent the World Bank has agreed to provide loan; and

(d) whether any agreement has been reached in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information Technology has sent an outline of the scheme for "Operation Knowledge" to the President, World Bank on 14.11.2000 with a request to be a partner with the Government of India in its implementation.

(c) and (d) The response of the World Bank in the matter is awaited.

Policy for Information Technology Sector

†2937. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate any policy to give a long-term direction to the information technology sector and for development of its second phase;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.